

through W. B. Rodman³²⁶ Esq on the 25th ultimo. In a few days we shall be fully equipped & uniformed, tho' not armed. We drill three times each day. We await orders.

I desire information on one or two points.

First—Tender of service having been made, have I, or the officers, or the Company, the power on good cause shown, to release a volunteer from duty in the Company? There is at least one case in which I think it should be done.

Secondly. Since the tender was made my company has increased, until it now numbers *ninety*. Will the additional volunteers on tender of services, be received as Members of the original Co.?

*John J. Hedrick Capt., James M. Stevenson³²⁷ G.P.
1st Lieut., D. A. Lamont³²⁸ 2 Lieut., James D. Cumming³²⁹
to John W. Ellis.*

Fort Caswell. N C
May 2, 1861.

In obedience to your commands, we are at our post in this Fort. We number one hundred men (100) and have a detachment of fifty Home squad. We are unarmed and therefore to a certain extent inefficient except that we hope to make ourselves perfect in the working of Garrison Guns. But you are aware that ours in a Light Artillery Company and for the honour of ourselves & State we are willing to work day and night to perfect ourselves in field Artillery—perchance in the progress of this war you may be called upon to furnish Soldiers and we know and feel that it would be your greatest pride to be represented in that war by men of Efficiency & Spirit. All that we ask, is this give us the impliments and a chance now. You will remember that we are the first Company raised under the Artillery bill of the last Legislature.

Now in the 1st Act of Warfare committed by yourself on the

³²⁶William B. Rodman, Sr.

³²⁷Probably James M. Stevenson, from Craven County; Major, Thirty-Sixth Regiment, North Carolina Artillery. Moore, *Roster of North Carolina Troops*, II, 711.

³²⁸D. A. Lamont, commission merchant in Wilmington. *The Wilmington Daily Herald*, April 23, 1861.

³²⁹James D. Cumming, from New Hanover County, Captain, Company C, Fifth Battalion, North Carolina Light Artillery. Moore, *Roster of North Carolina Troops*, IV, 256.